

31 January 1958

From: Vice Admiral O. B. HARDISON, USN(Ret.)  
To: Fleet Admiral William F. HALSEY, USN(Ret.)  
Subj: Final Report on termination of duties  
Ref: (a) Admiral Halsey's Office Memo of 15 Jan 1958  
Encl: (1) My ltr of 19 Oct 1957  
(2) My ltr of 14 Nov 1957  
(3) Status of Enterprise Drive  
(4) Agenda for Conference held on 5 Dec 1957  
(5) Notes on Conference held on 5 Dec 1957  
(6) Accomplishments to Date  
(7) Statement at beginning of Conference held on 27 Jan 1958  
(8) Decisions made at 27 January Conference

*Aide: Wm*  
*all*  
*chiefs*  
*770*  
*C.R.B.*

1. In accordance with your approval, my duties with you here in New York terminate as of 31 January 1958.
2. There are enclosed herewith, largely as a matter of record, and for possible future reference, various papers prepared during my tenure, which give a good picture of events during that period. They are Enclosures (1) through (8). There is no necessity for any additional detailed report as you have been kept informed and are familiar with the day by day course of events. However, it is necessary to give you a brief account of the interview with SecNav on 30 January 1958, and a report of last minute developments, and of unfinished business which requires completion.
3. On 30 January 1958, Rear Admiral Hamilton, Mr. Harry Walton, Treasurer of the Enterprise Association, who, in the absence of the President, Mr. Rubin, acted for him, and myself called on the Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of Naval Operations to inform them of the present status of the Enterprise Drive and to reach a decision as to the future. Enclosure (8) gives an outline of the Enterprise Association's position as presented to the SecNav by Mr. Walton. The decision was to discontinue the Drive to save the ship, and to concentrate on the establishment of a lesser type Memorial, such as the placing of the mast or bridge of the ship in the Naval Academy Stadium and establishing an Enterprise Gate. The Secretary of the Navy indicated he planned to name the Navy's first nuclear-powered carrier "ENTERPRISE". Admiral Hamilton, Mr. Walton, Captain Fluckey of the Naval Academy, myself, and a representative of the Architect are to meet in the Shipyard on 5 February, to endeavor



to pick out a suitable item for removal to Annapolis. The Association plans to continue efforts to raise sufficient funds to ensure naming one (only one remains) gate of the Stadium the "Enterprise Gate".

4. In my opinion, the foregoing completes your connection with the Enterprise Drive and with the Association with two exceptions. These are:

a. The packing up and transferral of papers, files, and material bearing on the Enterprise Drive. While there may be correspondence coming in concerning this for some time, the main transfer should take place as soon as practicable. Your office instructions, reference (a) cover this and particularly direct LCDR Neville to see that it is effected.

b. While actually the Enterprise Association should inform donors of the intended use of their funds, by reason of your personal connection with their collection, and doubtful availability to the Association of means of accomplishing this expeditiously, I believe this should be done in your office, but in the name of the Association. You have previously indicated your approval of this and I have instructed LCDR Neville that such is to be done. It seems to me a simple card or printed statement sent to each donor will suffice. There may be some exceptions where a more detailed notice is required but these I believe will be few if any. A rough draft which embodies my ideas is included in this letter.

c. The following departments and agencies whose approval of the site was requested by you should be informed of a decision to terminate:

The National Capital Planning Commission  
The Fine Arts Commission  
The Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia  
The Secretary of Commerce (CAA)  
The Secretary of Interior (National Parks Service)  
The Secretary of the Navy (Dons)

d. Vice Admiral Reed, USNR (Ret.) should be informed and thanked by you for his services and so should Mr. Moran and Mr. Stillman.

e. Needless to say, the various superfluous articles of furniture, extra telephones, etc., should be removed from the office and the office restored to its proper condition.

5. In conclusion let me express to you my great pleasure in having an opportunity to serve once again with you. The happiest moments of my Naval career are those in which we have been associated. It goes without

See typical  
letter to  
Hon. Sinclair  
Secretary of  
Commerce  
7 Feb 58  
Sent



saying that if at any time I can be of additional service, it will be a privilege to have you call upon me for this purpose. My permanent address in Washington is 5160 Manning Place, N. W., Washington 16, D. C. and my telephone number is Elderson 2-3761. If anything should arrive that concerns the Drive or other matters about which you are in doubt and you feel I can help, please call upon me.

6. The following is a draft copy of a proposed statement to be placed on a post card or on a printed sheet and distributed to donors of the Enterprise Drive:

"The Enterprise Association, by reason of the withdrawal of Fleet Admiral Halsey, our Chairman, necessitated by reasons of health; the generally unfavorable economic conditions prevailing; and various other factors, feels that the Drive to raise funds to save the ship cannot succeed and has reluctantly decided to terminate it.

"Funds collected to date are being audited and these, less essential administrative expenses, will be devoted to a less costly type of memorial. Present plans contemplate the transporting of the mast or navigating bridge to the Naval Academy, and the erection there in or near the New Memorial Stadium, in addition, the incorporation of an Enterprise Gate in the Stadium Structure. The exact nature of the memorial to be established is being studied by a committee appointed by the President of the Association, and is subject to factors of cost and adaptability to the Stadium design.

"You will be delighted to know that the Secretary of the Navy has indicated his intention of naming our first nuclear-powered carrier, "ENTERPRISE".

"While our inability to succeed in the larger project is regretted, it is felt the plan outlined above will result in a most suitable and worthy memorial to a great ship.

BILL RUBIN,  
President, Enterprise Association"

O. B. HARDISON.

"Rough Draft  
embodying  
Hardison's ideas."